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ABSTRACT

Arizona has nearly 25 percent of the charter schools in the nation. These Arizona schools present something new: the first system approaching comprehensive school choice in the real world. This edited volume assembles the perspectives of social scientists and education practitioners and gives the first published account of the Arizona charter school phenomenon. The book is divided into four parts. Part 1, "Theoretical and National Perspectives," contains 4 chapters: "And This Parent Went to Market: Education as Public versus Private Good" (L. Elaine Halchin); "The Death of One Best Way: Charter Schools as Reinventing Government" (Robert Maranto); "Congress and Charter Schools" (David L. Leal); and "Charter Schools: A National Innovation, an Arizona Revolution" (Bryan C. Hassel). Part 2, "Social Scientists Look at Arizona Charter Schools," contains 6 chapters: "The Wild West of Education Reform: Arizona Charter Schools" (Robert Maranto and April Gresham); "Why Arizona Embarked on School Reform (and Nevada Did Not)" (Stephanie Timmons-Brown and Frederick Hess); "Do Charter Schools Improve District Schools? Three Approaches to the Question" (Robert Maranto, Scott Milliman, Frederick Hess, April Gresham); "Closing Charters: How a Good Theory Failed in Practice" (Greg A. Garn and Robert T. Stout); "Nothing New: Curricula in Arizona Charter Schools" (Robert T. Stout and Gregg A. Garn); and "How Arizona Teachers View School Reform" (Frederick Hess, Robert Maranto, Scott Milliman, April Gresham). Part 3, "Practitioners Look at Arizona Charter Schools," contains 4 chapters: "The Empowerment of Market-Based School Reform" (Lisa Graham Keegan); "A Voice from the State Legislature: Don't Do What Arizona Did!" (Mary Hartley); "Public Schools and the Charter Movement: An Emerging Relationship" (Lee L. Hager); and "Whose Idea Was This Anyway? The Challenging Metamorphosis from Private to Charter" (Jim Spencer). Part 4, "Lessons," contains 1 chapter: "In Lieu of Conclusions: Tentative Lessons from a Contested Frontier" (Robert Maranto, Scott Milliman, Frederick Hess, April Gresham). (Contains 24 tables and 3 figures.) (DFR)

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